

# SIKKIM



## GOVERNMENT

## GAZETTE

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FOREST AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
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#### NOTIFICATION

Whereas, *Bassarona durga* belongs to the group of brush footed butterflies under Order Lepidoptera of Class Insecta. It belongs to family Nymphalidae and sub-family Limenitinae;

And whereas, in India, *Bassarona durga* is endemic to eastern Himalaya and north-eastern India. The Blue Duke-*Bassarona durga* is represented by two subspecies. The subspecies *Bassarona durga durga* (Moore,[1858]-Himalayan Blue Duke found in Sikkim is distributed from Eastern Nepal-Bhutan and upto Western Arunachal Pradesh. It is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. It is also categorised as "Critically endangered" species in the Red Data Book of Butterflies of India which is based on the criteria laid down by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUNC);

And whereas, in Sikkim *Bassarona durga* is found mostly in densely forested areas in Sikkim within the altitudinal range of 900-2000m asl and can be seen from April till November with peak population during July to September. This butterfly has vibrant colour for the attraction, which is large in size too. This species is not harmful to the crops and is not the invasive species of the region. This species is an ecological services of *Bassarona durga durga* (Moore) are significant for the fruit tree as well as biological development of forest and farmland for Sikkim;

Now therefore, the State Government is pleased to declare "*Bassarona durga*" Butterfly commonly know as "Blue Duke" as State Butterfly of Sikkim.

By Order and in the name of the Govenor.

ACS-cum-PCCF  
Forest & Environment Department  
Govt of Sikkim

